

As Dunlop recounts, for instance, in the mid 1990s, the EPA, run by former Gore aide Carol Browner, tried to prevent the state of Virginia from making the federal government clean up one of the worst toxic waste sites in the country. Avtex fibers. The plant had been kept open thanks to Colin Powell and the Bush administration because it was producing valuable products for the federal government. That's understandable.

What was wrong was the effort by the Clinton Administration to avoid making the party responsible for the pollution, namely Uncle Sam, from paying for the cleanup. "Can you imagine," as Dunlop notes, "if the guilty party had been a major corporation?"

EPA ultimately paid a huge fine to Virginia in the Avtex case but only after a legal struggle. Today, Browner brazenly takes credit for having cleaned up the site.

The government as a polluter is a vital issue all by itself. But in an election where trust, character, and taking responsibility have become part of the debate, it may be especially important.

Wasn't it Al Gore who was led an exhaustive review of everything the federal bureaucracy does, the ill-starred "re-inventing government" crusade? How does Gore square this effort and mission, and his vaunted attention to detail, with the fact that he apparently paid little attention to the polluting activities and policies of governmental itself?

Here we see the intersection of something Al Gore claims to revere, namely clean air and water, with the place where he and Bill Clinton have had the most direct control, the federal executive branch. And instead of a record to be proud of, the story of EPA in the 1990s is one of political vendettas, bad science, and "the buck stops over there."

I'm no Jim Lehrer or Larry King, but if I were, I know that I would point this out. It isn't a nit-picking question, and it isn't a personal attack—instead it goes to policy and the future. And it would sure be interesting what Al Gore has to say.

Mr. Kasten served Wisconsin in the House of Representatives (1975-81) and U.S. Senate (1981-93) and is an advisor to the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution.

HONORING RON HASKINS

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, as the 106th Congress draws to a close, I would like to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Mr. Ron Haskins, the Staff Director of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. Much to my regret, Ron will be leaving the Subcommittee at the end of the year. I know he will be sorely missed by this Member, and by the many other Members and staff who have had the opportunity to work with him during his time on Capitol Hill.

Over the years, Ron has been a key asset on the Ways and Means Committee. As a member of the Human Resources Subcommittee, I have had the honor of working closely with Ron on some of the major social policy issues affecting our country. His in-depth understanding of the issues, combined with his keen ability to digest the diverse perspectives of Committee Members, have allowed him to help identify areas of compromise and agreement on difficult issues.

As the Subcommittee's new Staff Director in 1995, Ron immediately employed his strong grasp of the nation's welfare system by working with then-Chairman CLAY SHAW, and other Members of the Committee, to craft the 1996 Welfare Reform Act—the most significant change in social policy in this country in the last 60 years. Thanks to Ron's tireless efforts, millions of American families are breaking a cycle of dependency and are working and gaining independence in our nation's economy.

As Ron moves on to other opportunities in his life, I join my colleagues in thanking Ron for his service to the Committee and to the country, for his good counsel, and for his energetic presence. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

SUPPORT FOR LIBERTY DAY CELEBRATION IN KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the celebration of Liberty Day in my home state of Kansas.

Liberty Day is a non-partisan statewide celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. It is celebrated annually on March 16th, the birthday of James Madison, the "father of our Constitution." On this day, and throughout the year, elected and previously elected officials volunteer their time to speak to students about how our country was established, how our system of government operates, what it means to be an American, and what our rights and responsibilities are as citizens of this great country. This year, Liberty Day was observed in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Wyoming. In Kansas, March 16, 2000, was proclaimed as Liberty Day by Governor Bill Graves, who urged all Kansans to join in the observance.

On October 10th of this year, I was pleased to join with my colleagues in voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 376, expressing the sense of Congress regarding support of the recognition of a Liberty Day. This resolution was approved by a voice vote of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House of Representatives for the 106th Congress, it has been my honor to have the opportunity to distribute hundreds of copies of the Constitution to constituents who have visited my office, Kansans who have attended my regularly-scheduled community office hours in the Third District, and secondary school teachers, study group leaders, and ministers who have contacted me asking for copies of the Constitution for distribution. I welcome this opportunity to share with you my support for this worthy endeavor, which will bring the living words of our Constitution closer to the minds and hearts of Kansans who, as I do, revere its meaning in our lives today.

HONORING GIL CORONADO

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I honor the achievements of a fellow Texan who has been serving as a key appointee in the Clinton Administration for the past six years. Gil Coronado is one of San Antonio's favorite sons, and is currently serving as the ninth Director of the Selective Service System. He is also the first Hispanic Director in the Agency's 60-year history.

Since his nomination by President Clinton and Senate confirmation in October 1994, Director Coronado has been leading this small but vital Federal agency into the 21st Century with unprecedented modernization and innovation, through the institution of on-line registration and registration by telephone. Nearly three-quarters of a million men have registered on-line to date.

More than half of all registrations today are electronic and the ratio of electronic registrations vs. paper registrations increases monthly, making it faster and easier for America's young men to comply with the registration requirement. These improvements also make it less costly to administer, something for which this body has a great appreciation.

Gil Coronado's influence as Director extends beyond Texas and Washington, D.C. Through his tireless advocacy in encouraging state and local government support of the Federal registration program, the number of states enacting laws that directly support the Military Selective Service Act has risen from 18 to 28 since 1994. This year two states—Oklahoma and Delaware—became the first states to link Selective Service registration with application for state drivers' licenses.

Gil Coronado is dedicated to making sure that our nation's young men are reminded about their civic and legal obligation to register.

Gil Coronado is a tremendous role model. He was born in Corpus Christi and grew up in the barrios of San Antonio. Orphaned at the age of five, his youthful years sometimes found him on the wrong side of the law. He dropped out of high school and was a member of Hispanic gangs. But he soon followed a more productive path in life, leading to great personal achievement and dedicated public service.

He enlisted in the military when he was only 16 by being more patriotic than honest about his age, earned a GED diploma, a college degree, and devoted a total of 30 years to a distinguished Air Force career, retiring as a Colonel with over 35 awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. A long-time crusader for Hispanic issues, he advocated creating National Hispanic Heritage Month, designated by the Congress in 1988.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the service and accomplishments of one of its most effective appointees, Selective Service System Director Gil Coronado. His selfless contributions to our great nation, from his years as a very young airman to the approaching conclusion of his current assignment as the longest serving SSS Director since General Lewis B. Hershey, are inspirational to us all. In every respect, Gil Coronado